

New bill. (Read LB 1235 by title for the first time as found on page 462 of the Legislative Journal.)

Mr. President, Senator Hartnett has amendments to 123 to be printed. Senator Hall has amendments to 663 to be printed. Senator Landis has amendments to 548 to be printed. (See pages 462-63 of the Legislative Journal.)

I have notice of hearing from the Health and Human Services Committee. That is offered by Senator Wesely as Chair.

One new bill, Mr. President. (Read LB 1236 by title for the first time as found on page 463-64 of the Legislative Journal.)

Mr. President, the next bill for consideration is LB 333. The bill was considered on Select File in March of last year. At that time E & R amendments were adopted. There were amendments from Senator Warner and Senator Lynch and Senator Beutler that were adopted. The bill failed to advance on May 6, Mr. President. I have nothing pending at this time.

SPEAKER NICHOL: There are no amendments pending? All right. We'll go on to the bill. Senator Barrett, did you wish to speak about the bill?

SENATOR BARRETT: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the Legislature, LB 333 is the bill which was discussed last spring which creates the Nebraska Child Abuse Prevention Fund. It was advanced, as the Clerk has suggested, with an amendment offered by Senator Warner and also Senator Beutler. The bill itself establishes the prevention fund to be administered by the Department of Social Services. This is by way of review, very quickly. The fund would be used for educational programs and public awareness and prevention services regarding child abuse and neglect. The statistics were made abundantly clear last spring. Child abuse and neglect is a very serious problem in Nebraska. It's been coming out of the closet for the last few years. It is projected that we may have as many as 8,500 reported cases in this state this year. The costs of child abuse are staggering, dramatically demonstrated by 121 percent increase in child sexual abuse reports last year and this gives Nebraska the dubious distinction of being second only